

C5240 Eyre Peninsula Desalination Augmentation Marine Science Review Panel

Date	27/06/2022	Time (ACST)	Start: 9.05pm, End: 10.45pm	
Meeting No.	02	Venue	Online, via Teams	
Attendance Ab = Absent Ap = Apologies P = Present	Chair - Dr Don Plowman (DP)	P	Dr Anu Kumar (AK)	P
	Dr Ian Wallis (IW)	P	Dr Alistair Hobday (AH)	P
	Dr John Luick (JL)	P	Dr Hazel Vandeleur (HV) (SAW representative)	P
	Prof Sean Connell (SC)	P	Executive Officer (TSA)	P

The second meeting of the Marine Science Review Panel for the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Project was held on the 27th of June 2022. The meeting began with an acknowledgement of country.

The agenda for the Panel's second meeting included a further consideration of the Environmental Performance criteria, a review of Seagrass mapping for Boston and Louth Bay, a review of the Fish Assemblage survey, and a review of Marine salinity and temperature tolerance draft report.

Panel members were updated on the marine environmental investigation status since their last meeting.

Outcomes from the Panel's discussion are summarised below:

In addition to the request to modify and update the Environmental Performance criteria in the last meeting, the Panel recommended that the design principles should specifically refer to the project meeting EPA and ANZECC guidelines/ requirements.

The Panel reviewed the seagrass mapping report/update prepared by the University of Adelaide. The report indicated there was little or no change in the extent of seagrass since 1991. The important work still to be completed is the Habitat Mapping being undertaken by SARDI, and the Panel will consider the early results of this work at their next meeting.

A draft report regarding fish assemblage survey has been prepared by SARDI and reviewed by the Panel. All agreed that the baseline information on the salinity and temperature requirements of fish species, seagrass and other important organisms provides a sound base to assess any possible impacts from the discharge of the brine produced by the desalination plant. The Panel required further interpretation of the information prepared in the context of impact on fish and plant species and alignment with national water quality standards.

While the initial results suggest that salinity levels are likely to remain within the tolerances of fish and other marine biotas, the Panel wished to review further data aligning the fish assemblage information with the modelled salinity and temperature impacts.

The outcomes from the habitat modelling, application of the hydrodynamic model and the salinity and temperature modelling are required before the Panel is able to provide further advice to the Site Selection Committee.